

Heritage Harbor Days



November 6, 7, and 8, 2009

Celebrating Baldwin County's Bicentennial



A supplement of
Gulf Coast Newspapers

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November 6, 7, and 8, 2009

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**Children's
Art Village**

**Midway
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**Antique
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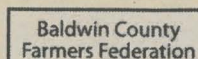
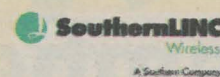
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For more info contact the Foley Convention & Visitors Bureau at (251) 943-1200

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Heritage Harbor Days 2009 Celebrating Baldwin's Bicentennial

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Ninth Annual Heritage Harbor Days to celebrate Baldwin County

■ This year's festival focusing on 200 years of Baldwin's rich heritage

Bob Morgan

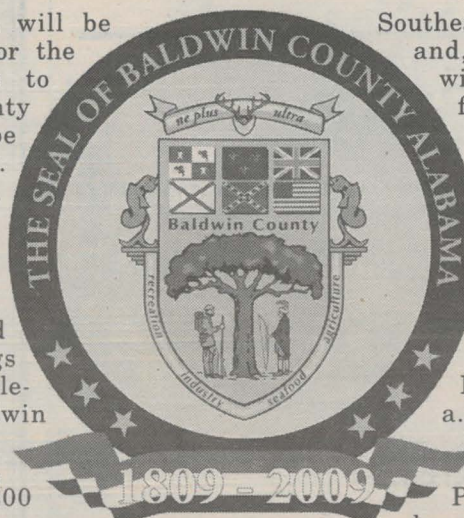
Staff Writer

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The 9th Annual Heritage Harbor Days began in 2001 with a Foley delegation saddling up and traveling to Guymon, Okla., for a cultural exchange event that drew national attention. Other destinations would follow as more "sister cities" were selected for a visit and to be visitors to Foley in return. The focus this time around, however, will be closer to home.

The cities that will be coming to Foley for the Nov. 6-8 "Salute to Baldwin County Heritage" will be from this county. Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Silverhill, Bay Minette, Stapleton, Daphne, Elberta and Magnolia Springs will share in the celebration of Baldwin County's rich and diverse history, now spanning 200 years.

Heritage Harbor Days has been named a "Top 20 Event" by the



Southeast Tourism Society and, as always, there will be arts and crafts, food, a midway carnival, live entertainment, Children's Art Village and more.

This year the final day of Heritage Harbor Days will be "Celebrate America Day." Events from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. will include a Veteran's Day Parade at 2 p.m., followed by a veteran's ceremony at the main stage at 3 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m. a "USO Show" will be

held and the day will conclude with patriotic fireworks at 6 p.m.

The Veteran's Day Parade route will begin at the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Alston Street and continue north on Alston for four blocks. It will then turn east on Laurel Avenue (U.S. Hwy. 98), north on McKenzie Street (Ala. Hwy 59), west on Violet Avenue, and south on Alston. It will continue south on Alston for four blocks and end at Roosevelt and Alston where it started.

Heritage Harbor Day participants are urged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the salute to veterans.

Heritage Harbor Days is a free event. For more information on this award-winning festival, call the Foley Convention and Visitors Bureau at 943-1200.

Heritage Days Children's Art Village doubles in size

Submitted by Foley CVB

The Foley Convention and Visitors Bureau has partnered with Target to bring fun and excitement to children of all ages at the 9th Annual Heritage Harbor Days Children's Art Village.

Under the direction of Christian Dew, the southeast corner of Heritage Park will be transformed into an interactive, educational, entertaining venue for everyone to enjoy! This area has always been a favorite for festival patrons.

This year the Children's Area will increase in size to include the

Babin House of Party. The Babin House of Party will include an interactive German Village, puppets and stilt walkers!

The CAV stage will feature Native American Dancers, Mexican folkloric dancers, storytellers, local dance troupes, singers, and more! Activities for the children within the Children's Art Village are free.

From crayons to crabs, children will be educated and entertained in a family friendly environment!

A special thanks to Target and the Babin House of Party for providing a venue of learning and fun.



photo submitted by Foley CVB



photo submitted by Foley CVB

The Children's Art Village, traditionally a Heritage Harbor Days favorite, has increased in size and will include a new feature — the Babin House of Party. The CAV also has a number of arts and crafts, Mexican and Native American folkloric dancers (at left), local dance troupes, singers and much more.

HHD selected as one of Top 20 events by Southeast Tourism Society

Submitted by Foley CVB

The City of Foley's Heritage Harbor Days has been selected as one of Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 events for the month of November.

The Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 Events publication receives extensive exposure in print media, web, radio and television in the U.S. and Canada. Over 800 newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, AAA's and others receive the Top 20 listings. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution prints the Top 20 as a regular quarterly feature of its travel section, and the Top 20 Events has recently been featured on the New Orleans-based radio show "Travel Talk Radio". The Top 20 Events are also listed on the Southeast Tourism Society web site www.southeasttourismsociety.org and on their consumer Web site www.escapetotheseast.com.

Heritage Harbor Days has received numerous state and national awards for creativity, merchandising, education and leader-



Will Mezick/staff photo

The Miss Foley

A staple of Heritage Harbor Days, The Miss Foley, a 28-foot shrimp boat, will be on display at the park during this year's festival.

ship. Recently the festival was the State of Alabama. The educational program with the "Miss

Foley" has won awards in Texas and Oklahoma. Most recently the Heritage Harbor Days exchange program with Winchester, Tenn., won the Gold Award for the "Best Event within an Event" for the International Festival and Events Association's Southeast Region.

The Miss Foley has been deemed the most traveled shrimp boat off the water on the planet! The festival is cross promotion at its finest. Working with other Southeast cities and states, Heritage Harbor Days captures the essence of innovative marketing for the City of Foley and the Alabama Gulf Coast.

Heritage Harbor Days continues to increase tourism, encourage positive media coverage, create economic impact for the City of Foley and surrounding area and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.

This year's event will be held Nov. 6 through 8 in Heritage Park and J.B. Foley Park. Admission is always free. For more information contact Kathy Danielson, Executive Director Foley CVB 251-943-1200.

Alabama Blues Brothers to open festival with a bang on Friday night

Submitted by Foley CVB

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and plan to party under the stars at the Friday, Nov. 6 concert with the Alabama Blues Brothers at 7 p.m.

Join us at the Main Stage, sponsored by Riviera Utilities, as we kick off the 9th Annual Heritage Harbor Days festival with a night of high energy entertainment featuring one of

the Southeast's most popular groups.

These two brothers dressed in dark suits and glasses will have you up and dancing to your favorite Blues Brothers' tunes. Backed by a seven-piece show band, the Blues Brothers perform such hits as "Soulman", "Hey Bartender", "Rawhide" and many other R&B and Blues Brothers tunes.

They have performed

to over 2000 audiences' nationwide.

Admission to the concert is free. There will be a dance floor for dancing and plenty of room for your lawn chairs and blankets. Come early and have dinner at one of the 10 food vendors on-site and visit the Rotary Beer Garden next to the stage.

For more information please contact the Foley Convention and Visitors Bureau (251)943-1200.



submitted by Foley CVB

The Alabama Blues Brothers and their seven-piece band will rock Heritage Harbor Day's Main Stage on Friday, beginning at 7 p.m.

BATTLESHIP BECKONS

USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park still a solid draw despite tightened belts

Kelli M. Dugan
Staff Writer

kdugan@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

MOBILE—Strolling through USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park provides visitors more than a glimpse into U.S. military history.

From its namesake World War II naval battleship and the world's oldest submarine to an authentic Vietnam river patrol boat and a helicopter responsible for the transport of three U.S. presidents, the one-of-a-kind museum immerses patrons in more than six decades of military honor and prowess while preserving some of the most rare relics of storied military conflicts.

Indeed, an estimated 1,000 visitors flock to the Mobile park each day that is continuously updating its collections.

In fact, Executive Director Bill Tunnell said the facility only recently completed its aircraft collection spanning F-14 to F/A-18, concluding a 25-year search.

"You run into a lot of people who say, 'Oh, I was out there in the fourth grade,' but they just don't understand that our exhibits are constantly being updated and expanded," Tunnell said.

One of the park's most recent acquisitions is an HH-1N helicopter on loan from the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla., known as "Marine One." Although it has been used most recently as a rescue helicopter stationed in Fallon, Nev., Marine One was used to transport



Kelli M. Dugan/staff photo

Oliver Johnson of Mobile explores the decks of the USS Alabama with his Pop-Pop, who was visiting the expansive military museum from New Jersey.

Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan.

Of course, the 42,500-ton USS Alabama remains the park's most popular draw and tours allow visitors to stroll about the 80 million-pound battleship that once housed nearly 2,500 crewmembers and officers during World War II. Rooms such as the engineer's office, bakery, barber shop, mess area, tailor shop and aviation office provide a tableau of cramped but efficient wartime travel circa 1942.

Tunnell said economic conditions have certainly

impacted attendance—with admissions down about 25 percent but some 30,000 patrons expected in June—but aggressive marketing and advertising are beginning to reach and remind locals of the historic jewel in their own backyards.

And with an annual budget of about \$3.5 million, Tunnell said the park is committed to providing the most extensive military history experience available anywhere.

Gloria Daniels of Pittsburgh, Pa., was in town recently visiting her grandchildren in Montrose

and made a day trip to the park.

"It really is just overwhelming. Not just the size of what you're looking at," she said of the USS Alabama, "but of the sacrifices the men aboard this ship made. It's humbling."

Of course, it's not uncommon to find a high school prom or wedding reception on the battleship's back deck or even in the aircraft pavilion, equipped to seat 800.

But it's the little asides that often take patrons by surprise.

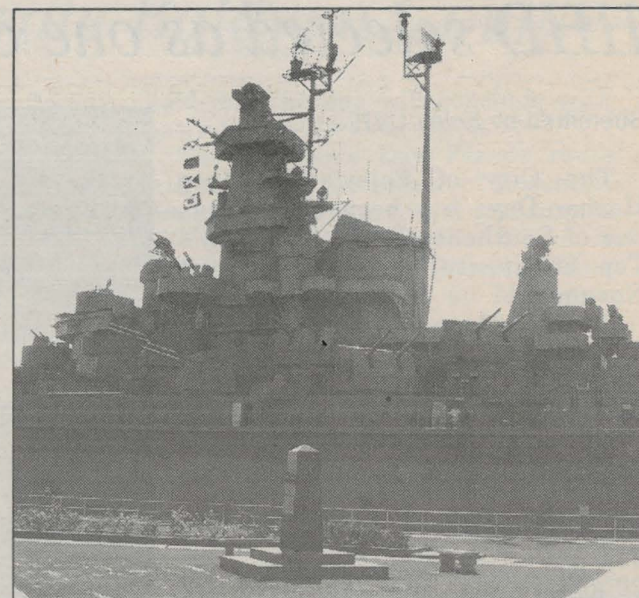
Howard Barker of Mobile, strolling through the park's gift shop to beat the mid-June heat, said the exhibit featuring POW Adm. Jeremiah Denton really caught him off guard.

"I was just struck by how small that little (replica) cell was, and to think he was there for three years. It's just amazing," Barker said.

While at the park visitors can also view Drum, SS-228, the oldest surviving World War II-era submarine in the world. The 311-foot submarine earned 12 battle stars during the war.

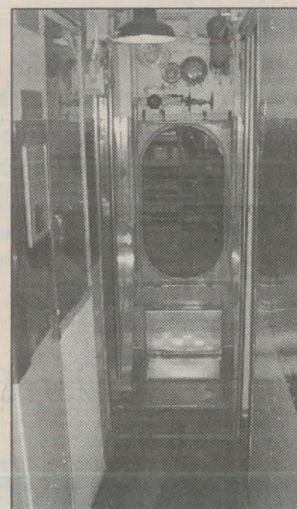
Tom Bowser, a California native, moved to Mobile three-and-a-half years ago to work on the Drum's restoration and said she received a real baptism by fire being the first of a new class to be completed before the United States entered the war. And despite entering the fray with damaged torpedoes, Bowser said the Drum made 13 total patrols, sinking 18 vessels.

SEE BATTLESHIP, PAGE 10

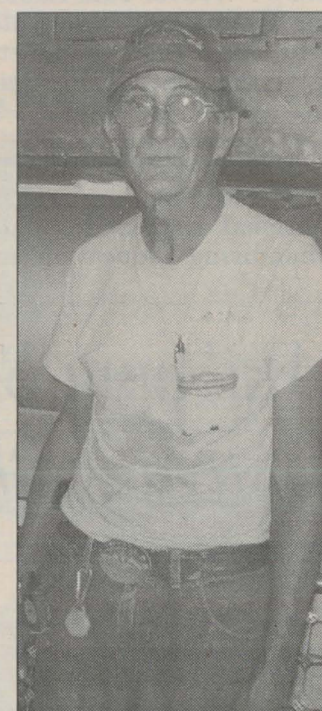


Kelli M. Dugan/staff photos

The 42,500-ton USS Alabama sits majestically awaiting its estimated 1,000 daily visitors.



Above: Quarters on the World War II-era USS Drum were understandably close. **Below:** Tight quarters didn't mean class and decorum were sacrificed at meal times, though, as this dining quarters tableau illustrates.



Tom Bowser, who himself served 10 years on the USS Madison and USS Seahorse, has spent the past three-and-a-half years helping to restore the USS Drum, the world's oldest submarine, on the grounds of USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

Finger on the pulse of history

Caleb Calhoun
Contributing Writer

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FAIRHOPE — A preserved finger lies at the Fairhope Museum of History with a completely unknown past. At one time it could have worn expensive jewelry, directed chariots across the Sahara desert more than 5,000 years ago, or even signaled the execution of citizens of an ancient tribe.

This is one of many artifacts in the museum that was once owned by a person or a family with ties to Fairhope dating back to the 19th century. According to Donnie Barrett, the director of the museum, these artifacts and their relation to history are a big reason the museum is so successful.

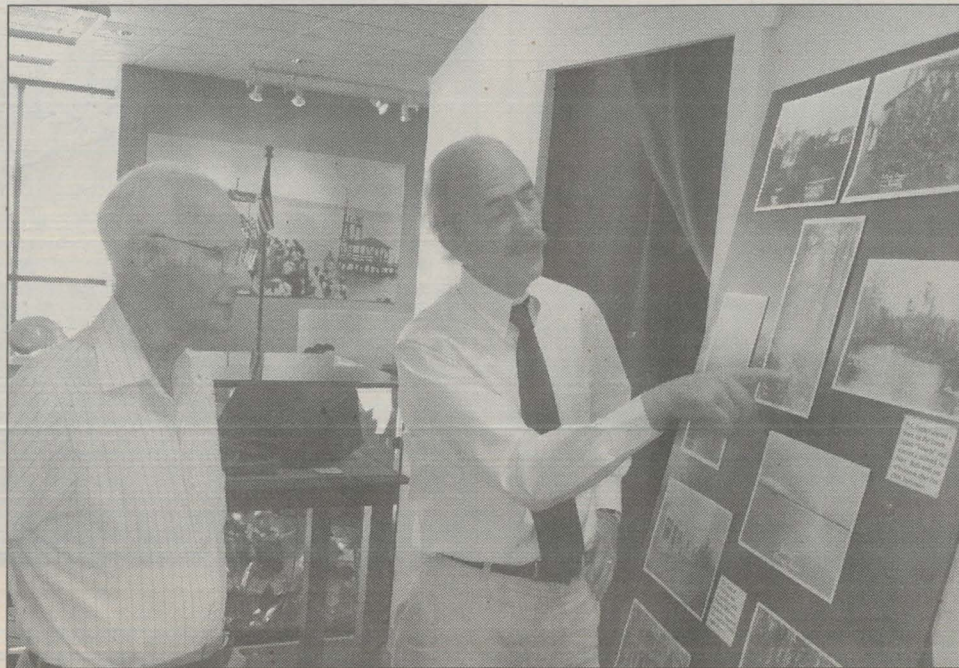
"History museums help define a sense of community," Barrett, 59, said. "They introduce our community to visitors and newcomers and offer materials on research."

Currently the museum is in the middle of an exhibit called "Stewart the Picture Man." The exhibit, which began in 1996, displays many photos taken by Fairhope's most famous photographer, Frank Stewart, who took pictures of the earliest days of Fairhope through the Great Depression. Stewart was blind in his right eye, to which Barrett humorously said, "He had a good eye for things."

The museum has acquired many of the photos he has taken and tried to show as many of them as possible. Part of the exhibit is a feature called "Now and Then," where a photo of Fairhope originally taken by Stewart sits next to a recent photo of the same location in order to show how it evolved. It also has a "Dark Room" to portray how Stewart developed his film during that time. According to Barrett, the museum now has close to 500 photos taken by Stewart.

"We owe (Stewart) a lot," Barrett said. "Frank Stewart chronicled everything. He captured all the subtle changes of Fairhope throughout his life."

Stewart moved to Fairhope in the 1890s with his wife, Harriet, as a supporter of the Single Tax idea. He bought 40 acres of land on Polecat Creek initially, but sold it in 1914 and moved to what is currently Greer's Food Tiger on Section St. They had no children, and his house became his photo shop. From there he made a living as a photogra-



Caleb Calhoun/staff photo

Fairhope Museum director Donnie Barrett discusses the "Stewart the Picture Man" exhibit. The exhibit displays nearly 500 photos taken by Fairhope's most famous photographer, Frank Stewart.

pher, operating it with his wife, and eventually her sister, Clara. They sold many photos to citizens all across Baldwin County, and many of those photos have been donated to the museum.

Born on Feb. 12, 1855 in Lafayette, Ind., Stewart moved to Humbolt, Kan., when he was very young. His father, Watson Stewart, was involved in the founding of the Republican Party. During his 30s, he worked in Chicago, Ill. as secretary to the president of C.R.I. & P. Railroad.

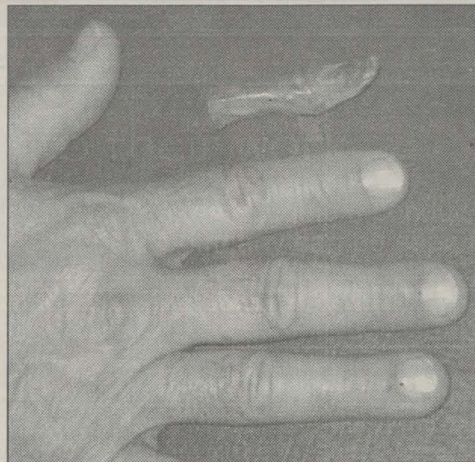
Many things that relate to Fairhope's history, like Stewart's photographs, have been recovered to be put on display at the museum. With

regards to the preserved finger, Barrett says that after talking with

archeologists it was likely once an Egyptian finger in the days when mummification was common. He believes it was retrieved around the time King Tut's tomb was discovered in 1922. During that time, many people began to purchase parts of uncovered, mummified

bodies in Egypt. The finger first went on display in the 1950s, when the original Fairhope library had a room for the display of artifacts that could be donated by people. Many of those artifacts traveled the same path as the finger and are now on display at the current museum.

The original Fairhope City Hall from 1928 to 1971 houses the museum. That building was also used as the police station until 2002. Part of



Caleb Calhoun/staff photo

An unidentified preserved finger is on display at the Fairhope museum. It is one of the many artifacts that was owned by a person or family with ties to the city.

the museum shows the original mayor's office, original jail cells, an old Fairhope fire truck, and the room where the City Council used to meet.

Before it relocated to the original City Hall, the museum spent its first 16 years in the Bell building, which used to be the location of Marietta Johnson's school. It has since been taken over by Faulkner State Community College.

The idea for the museum developed in 1991, when, according to the city of Fairhope's Web site, about 25 volunteers of the city had multiple meetings about opening up a Historical museum of Fairhope. Among those involved were current councilmen Mike Ford, 73, and Fairhope citizen Henry Dunlap, 90. Ford said that a museum was one of the first things he wanted when he was appointed to the city council in 1982.

"I knew Fairhope was a young town with many artifacts from its original families that could be put on display," Ford said. "I thought it would be great to showcase the city's uniqueness."

Another original member of the group was Flo Simmons, a longtime citizen of Fairhope who donated many artifacts to the museum. Simmons died in 2003.

After opening in 1992, the museum was in use for 16 years. It was and still is supported by the city, and anybody can visit it for free.

Eventually, Barrett came in to design the museum. Dunlap, who was born in Scotland but has lived in Fairhope for more than 60 years, said that Barrett is a major reason for the museum's current success.

"If it was not for Donnie, the museum would have folded up," he said. "He always has great ideas to keep the museum going."

In 2007, the museum closed down, moved to its current building, and reopened in 2008. Barrett says that at the old building it was down to two visitors per day, but it currently gets 60 per day. According to Dunlap, the location of the old building was a problem.

"It was too far for people to walk to, but to close for them to drive," he said.

Barrett says he has many more plans for the museum in future months. It plans to have history classes for kids, and it also now has a nighttime cemetery tour, where people are told the story of Fairhope's history. They are also in the process of hiring a new curator, which Barrett has been doing up to this point.

FOLEY — THEN & NOW



photo courtesy of Snook Archives



GCN file photo

A Foley landmark

Built of heart pine, Foley's Hotel Magnolia has been in operation since February 1908. A windmill, seen behind the hotel in the left photo, was built in 1909 to provide running water. The hotel has gone through a number of changes over the years; most recently, conference rooms and the Magnolia Court restaurant were added.



photo courtesy of Snook Archives



Will Mezick/staff photo

A tale of two cities

Local businesses still line downtown Foley's McKenzie St. as they did a century ago, though the landscape is a bit different. At left is McKenzie as it appeared in the early 1900s. Seen are the Willis Hotel, the meat market and the IOOF Lodge above the grocery, which all burned in a Friday the 13th fire in the early 1920s. At right is McKenzie as it appears today — a bustling street that serves as the main thoroughfare to Baldwin's beaches.

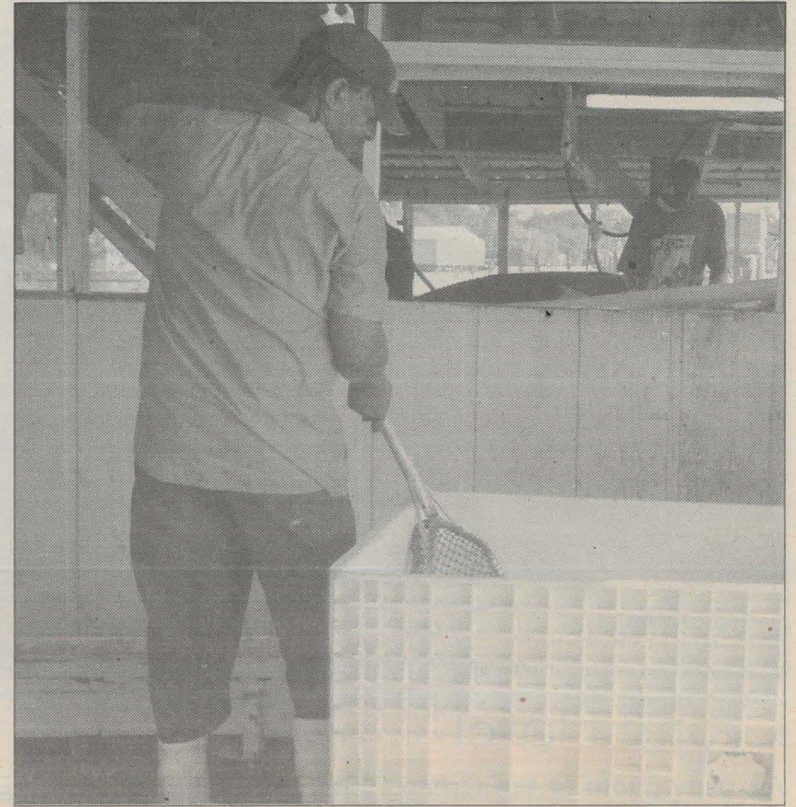
BON SECOUR



Jeniece Bouzan/staff photo

A way of life

The waterfront community of Bon Secour has been home to the seafood industry since its origin as a French fishing village in the late 19th century. Large shrimp boats line the Shores of the Bon Secour river and many local workers take pride in their involvement with the "Alabama Wild Shrimp Program."



Jeniece Bouzan/staff photo

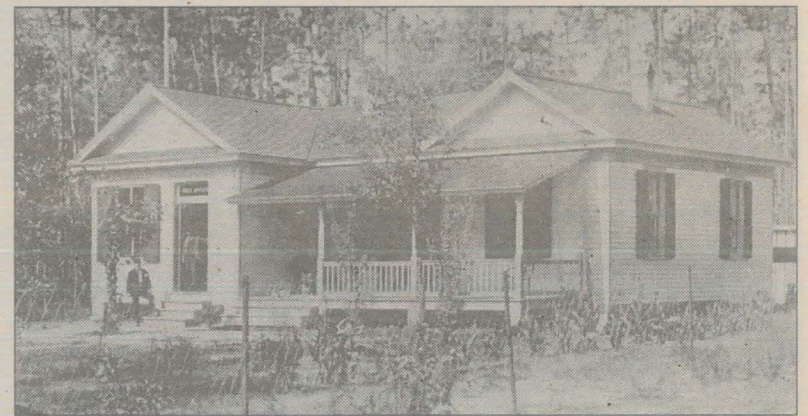
MAGNOLIA SPRINGS



courtesy of Magnolia Springs Post Office

A boatload of mail

Delivering the U.S. Mail by boat isn't something you see every day, but the Magnolia Springs River mail route is still up and running and remains the only river route mail delivery in the continental United States.



courtesy of Snook Archives

The Magnolia Springs post office as it stood in 1907.

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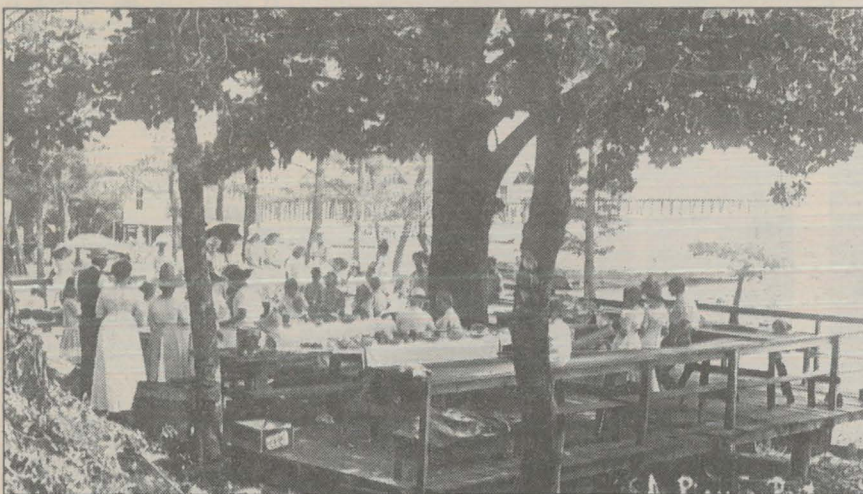
EASTERN SHORE



courtesy of Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Grand Hotel

An early photo of the Grand Hotel, an Eastern Shore destination since it opened in 1847. This historic getaway is sited on Mobile Bay in Point Clear.



courtesy of Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Sittin' on the dock of the Bay

Folks enjoy a picnic on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.

BATTLESHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

"They were made to be a fleet support sub, but when they got to Pearl Harbor, there was no fleet, so they were sent out on their own and told to be aggressive instead of defensive," Bowser said, noting the sub's first action was seen at the mouth of Tokyo Bay where it sank four ships.

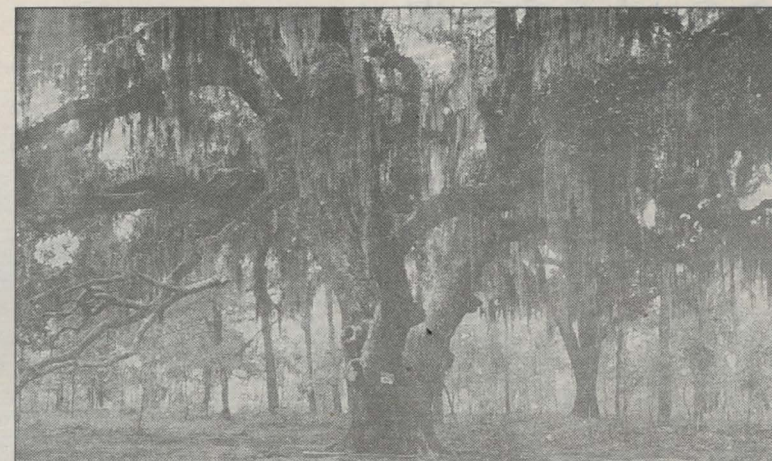
Admission into the park is \$12 for ages 12 and up,

\$6 for ages 6 to 11 and children under 6 are admitted free.

Battleship Park is open daily, except for Christmas. Operating hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April through September and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. October through March.

Parking is \$2 per car and \$25 per semi.

For additional information call 251-433-2703 or visit www.ussalabama.com.



courtesy of Fairhope Single Tax Corp.

Jackson Oak

In times gone by, Jackson Oak was a popular picnic area or "day trip." **Below:** The unidentified family in this photo preserved their visit to the historic tree with a picture for their family album.



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courtesy of Snook Archives

The Wright stuff

Seen above is Crosby Drugs, now Wright Drugs, as it appeared in downtown Foley in the early 1900s.

Cash crop

An important and interesting phase of tobacco culture in Baldwin is seen here, showing shade grown tobacco. Numerous buildings and warehouses were constructed in connection with this industry, though it did not continue to grow and develop.



courtesy of Snook Archives



The City of Foley proudly salutes



9th Annual Heritage Harbor Days Festival



in celebrating the Baldwin County Bicentennial

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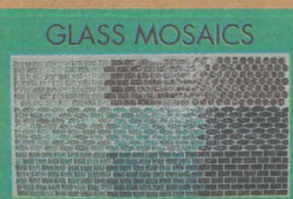
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BON SECOUR

Seafood Haven

Bon Secour has a rich history. It was originally a French fishing village settlement dating back to the late 19th century. Currently it is a Southern gothic, waterfront community that serves as a safe harbor to a current commercial fishing fleet. Named by Jacques Cook, a French Canadian from Montreal, member of Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville colonizing expedition of 1699. The primary catch for the Bon Secour fishing fleet ranges from Mobile Bay Shrimp to deep water "Royal Red" shrimp. Large shrimp boats line the shores of the Bon Secour River, docked at processing plants for packaging and shipment to all of America. Bon Secour is very Southern gothic, picturesque place, with huge water oak trees covered in Spanish moss, great blue herons, brown pelicans, even present bottle-nose dolphin pods and the potent of salty gulf waters everywhere. The local commercial fisherman that make their living from the Gulf are no less salty but also friendly.

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Entertainment Schedule

MAIN STAGE

Friday, Nov. 6

Noon -12:30 p.m.
Mexican Folkloric Dancers

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Frank Brown Songwriter

1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Top Hat and Jackie

2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
F.B. Songwriters- George and Jim

3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
John and Jim

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Opening Ceremony

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Billy Pelletier

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Alabama Blues Brothers

Saturday, Nov. 7

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Festival Opens

10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
F.B. Songwriter- Keith Glass

11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Cool Change

Noon - 12:30 p.m.
Mexican Folkloric Dancers

1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Little Rock Baptist Choir

1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Kent Rollins- Cowboy Poet

2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Heltons

3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.
The Rhythm Method

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Dixie Flyers

Sunday, Nov. 8

11:30 a.m. - Noon
Mexican Folkloric Dancers

Noon - 12:45 p.m.
F.B. Songwriter- Stephen Veal

1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Mobile Country Music Association

2:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Little Rock Baptist Choir

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Veterans Ceremony

4 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
John and Jim

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
City Rhythm Big Band

6 p.m.
Grand Finale Fireworks

BLUEGRASS STAGE

Friday, Nov. 6

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Local Jam

11 a.m. - Noon
Dave Galka

Noon - 12:45 p.m.
Harold and Ovaline Andrews

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Southern Sounds

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
The Gary Waldrep Band

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Fat Man Squeeze

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
The Gary Waldrep Band

5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Local Jam Session

Saturday, Nov. 7

10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Harold and Ovaline Andrews

11 a.m. - Noon
Fat Man Squeeze

Noon - 1 p.m.
Lock Stock and Barrel

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Sugarcane Jane

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Southern Sounds

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Local Jam Session

Sunday, Nov. 8

11 a.m. - Noon
Local Musicians

Noon - 1 p.m.
Southern Sounds

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Lock Stock and Barrel

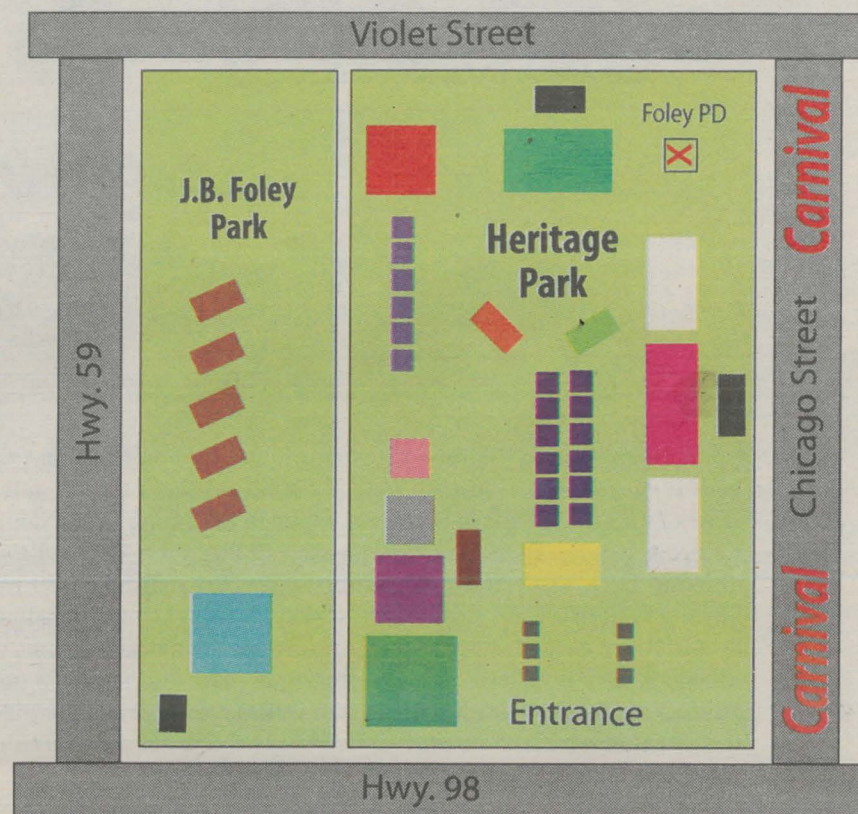
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Sugarcane Jane

3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Fat Man Squeeze

4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Local Jam Session

2009 Heritage Harbor Days Festival Map

- Information Booth
- Retail Booth
- Shrimp Boat
- Bluegrass Stage
- Wooden Boat Show
- Living History Area
- Baldwin County Heritage
- Potato Shed Replica
- Antique Tractors
- Children's Art Village
- Arts and Crafts Booths
- Food Booths
- Main Stage
- Chuck Wagon Cook
- Model Train Exhibit
- L&N Depot
- Beer Garden
- Bathrooms



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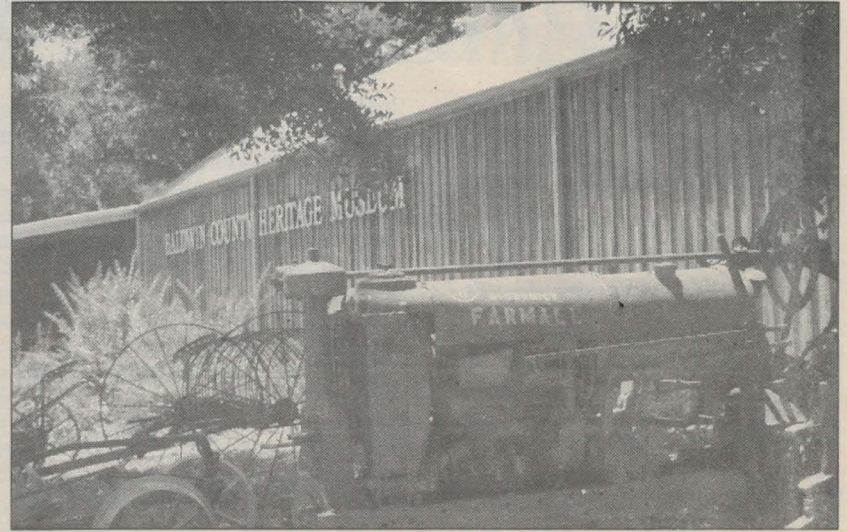
SOUTH BALDWIN



courtesy of Snook Archives

First class

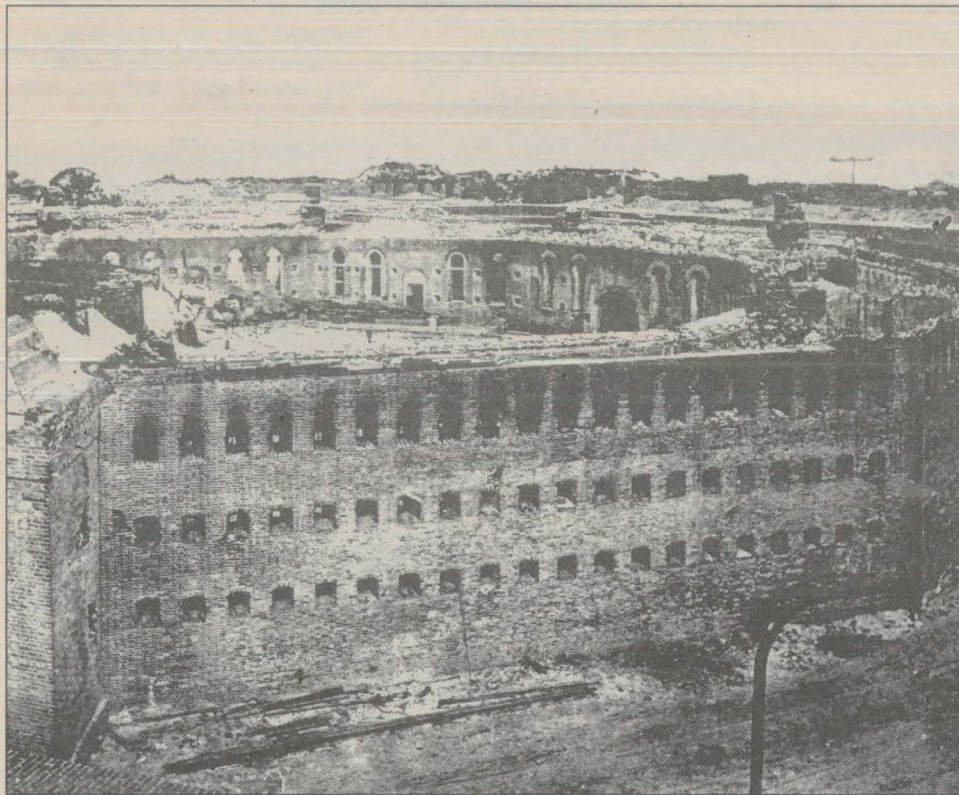
It's not known exactly the year it was built — 1910 or 1911 — but the Hotel Elberta was rather deluxe for its time and place. It was operated by the Baldwin County Colonization Co. who used it to house "home seekers" who came to the area. It was later dismantled and moved to Lillian.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Preserving Baldwin heritage

No site in the county showcases more of Baldwin's farming past than the Baldwin County Heritage Museum in Elberta. Instead of fancy antiques, the museum contains pieces from the men and women who built the county.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Historic Fort Morgan

Fort Morgan, completed in 1834, sits at the mouth of Mobile Bay and has been called "one of the finest examples of military architecture in the New World." Seen above left is a view of the citadel from the south side in the 1860s. At right are a few members of the 50th Coast Artillery unit which occupied and garrisoned Fort Morgan during World War II.



courtesy of Snook Archives

The original high rise

Donna Riley-Lein

Staff Writer

drileylein@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

Gary Cole stood watch for five years in a 100-foot fire tower in Vredenburgh, Ala., and remembers each of the 97 steps to the top.

Cole, the regional forester for the Alabama Forestry Commission, which serves 10 southwest Alabama counties, was one of thousands of tower people nationwide scanning the horizon for rogue smoke.

Towers gained popularity in the early 1900s and fires were reported by means of telephones and carrier pigeons. They were operated by townships and private lumber companies.

In 1933, during the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt formed the Civilian Conservation Corps which constructed about 8,000 fire towers nationwide, according to Wikipedia.com.

"The CCC building fire towers was a

lot like what President Obama is trying to do now to stimulate the economy with public works projects," Cole said.

Alabama has 211 fire tower sites with 119 inactive, standing towers, according to the Historic Fire Lookout Sites Register, an organization which locates and gathers historical information, and is in the initial stages of preserving some towers.

Baldwin County has standing fire towers in Crossroads and Loxley, Cole said. A tower in the southern area of the county was destroyed by a hurricane and another tower may be standing near Stockton.

All the sites fell victim to single-engine planes which could monitor bigger areas more efficiently, he said.

"In the mid-1960s and 1970s, husband and wife teams manned the towers," Cole said. "He was the forest patrolman and she was the tower person. The AFC didn't pay enough, so they supplied a residence. Some fire towers are on five-acre sites and the couples could farm the land or raise

livestock to add to their income."

The Forest Fire Lookout Association, founded in 1990, is involved in research of former forest fire lookout sites, ground cabins and early fire-detection methods. Anecdotes from lookouts are documented and the organization encourages efforts of public groups and others in the restoration of towers.

Cole said the AFC has not attempted to preserve the sites and noted that bored hunters often shoot out the windows.

"Some people think they should be preserved for their historical significance — people like me who used to be a tower person," Cole said.

He recalled one tower on State Road 21 between Atmore and Monroeville that was condemned several years ago.

"A man moved the tower to Butler County and restored it," Cole said. "It cost \$70,000, but it was worth it to him because family members had worked the tower."



Donna Riley-Lein/staff photo

Baldwin County has standing fire towers in Loxley and Crossroads.

NORTH BALDWIN



courtesy of Snook Archives

Holding court

The old Bay Minette courthouse was built in 1900. After "stealing" courthouse records from Daphne (the former county seat), Bay Minette finally became the seat of county government.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Birdseye view

A southeast view of Bay Minette from atop the old courthouse in the 1910s.

CENTRAL BALDWIN

*'Quilting Queens' call this part of the county home***Donna Riley-Lein**

Staff Writer

drileylein@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

ROBERTSDALE — It's a small, but congenial group that meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the George P. Thames Senior Citizens Center. The goal is quilting and socializing, and other handicrafts are welcome. They are the "Quilting Queens of Central Baldwin"

Pat Hallberg, the group's leader says that some members "knit or crochet" as well.

The goal is to produce a dazzling array of quilts and other handicrafts.

Most of the women at the center said that they make quilts for relatives and friends, and that the quilts they get to keep themselves are few and far between.

"They are spoken for as soon as you sit down to do one," laughed Frances Henly of Robertsdale. She's starting a new project, and

so far, it fits into a resealable box.

If you have a mental picture of women sitting at a large quilting frame, working on an enormous piece, think again.

"I do this (quilting) here, at the doctor's office, whenever I am waiting," said Hallberg, expertly piecing together some heirloom fabric. She's cut her squares, and right now the quilt-to-be fits into a small box.

Her needles and thread fit into a pouch, so the entire project is easily carried from one place to another. As the pieces come together and the batting and backing have to be put on, that's another thing, but experienced quilters like these ladies have projects in various stages, so they often have something with them.

Quilting and other fabric crafts are a great way to fill time, the women say.

"You do lose track of time when you are doing this," said Diane Dombroski.

Finding fabric and supplies to

make the colorful quilts sharpens all the women's hunting instincts.

Henly has asked her friends and family for vintage handkerchiefs, that she is folding and sewing into a butterfly pattern and then appliquéing onto a fabric square. The squares will be stitched together to form a quilt.

"I've got some handkerchiefs,"

said Henly, and have asked everybody." She estimates she'll need more, and plans to hit area yard sales and thrift stores to find the rest she'll need.

And of course all the women keep a sharp eye out for interesting fabric or things that they can use to embellish a project.

"My husband has golf and I have this," chuckled Dombroski,

who says she's done more than 20 "baby" quilts and other projects since taking up quilting a few years ago.

"I was looking for something to do in retirement," said Bonnie Savell with a laugh. She was embroidering squares that will for the top of her next quilt.

SEE QUILTING QUEENS, PAGE 18



Robertsdale Feed Store

"Since 1931"



In 1931, J.W. Clark opened "J.W. Clark Feed Store" in Robertsdale. The name was eventually changed to "Robertsdale Feed Store" and was bought by Brian Johnson in 1995. Just this year the store moved to a new location on Ala. Hwy 59. What has stayed the same, is our commitment to serve our customers with the same personal touch which has been our hallmark since 1931.

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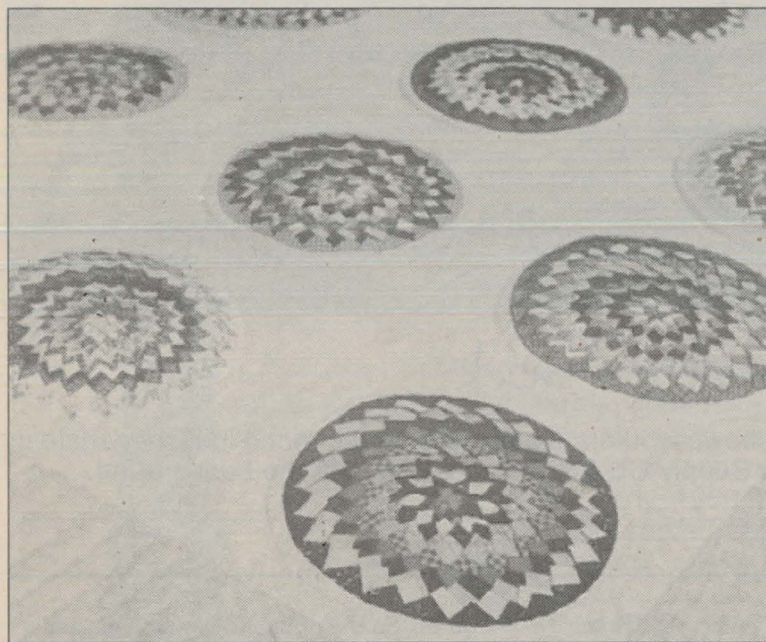
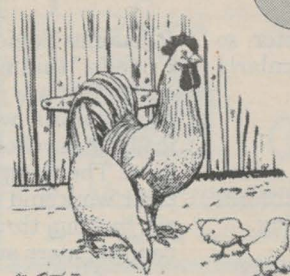
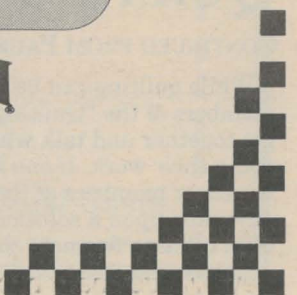


Photo courtesy of the Alabama Department of Archives and History

The state of Alabama designated the Pine Burr Quilt as the official state quilt in 1997. The quilt was made by Loretta Pettway Bennett, daughter of Qunnie Pettway, a quilter from Gee's Bend. Her quilt, shown above, is now on display in the second floor Alabama Sampler Gallery at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.



ROBERTSDALE



courtesy of Snook Archives

Looking down 59

These two photos — that show views of what is now Hwy. 59 running through the heart of Robertsdale — were taken by Sherman F. Lemler in the mid 1940s.



courtesy of Snook Archives



courtesy of Snook Archives

Digging into their work

The above image shows workers digging a conduit trench in Robertsdale in July 1955. Baldwin Supply Company can be seen in the background.

QUILTING QUEENS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

While quilting can be done at home, members of the "Quilting Queens" like to get together and talk while they are doing their work. If one has a problem, the other members of the group can usually come upon a solution. Hallberg has been quilting for more than three

decades and was a quilting instructor, so the women come to her with particularly tricky problems.

"It's a social thing," said Savell. And a good use of time.

"I will start, and when I look up, hours and hours have gone by" said Dombroski.

Hallberg is part of another quilting group that meets at the George

P.Thames Senior Center, the "Stitch-N-Friends," that makes "Quilts of Valor," quilts that are given to members of the armed forces who return wounded physically or psychologically from the Middle East. The group has received praise for their work and accepts donations of fabric, batting, thread and money so they can buy more supplies to create more

quilts. So the quilt can be washed easily, the group only uses soft, 100-percent cotton fabrics.

Those interested in helping the Quilts of Valor project or joining the "Quilting Queens" should call Hallberg at (251) 947-3265. Hallberg has information on other area quilting groups outside of Robertsdale.

SOUTH BALDWIN

Gulf Shores receives historical marker

Clayton Wallace
Contributing Writer

islander@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

When most people think about Gulf Shores today, the first things that come to mind are the beautiful beaches and high-rise condos that have made the city a renowned tourist destination.

Few people know about the people and structures that populated the area before 50 or 60 years ago.

One such home was recently honored by the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission with a plaque commemorating it as a historical structure.

The Callaway-Amacker Home was built by Joe Callaway in 1908 for his new bride, Mabel Styron Callaway.

A ceremony and open house for friends and family members was held in May to commemorate the designation.

According to the Callaway's granddaughter Joy Robinson, the home was typical for this area dur-



photo submitted by Clayton Wallace

Sybil Callaway Ryan, center, the last surviving child of Joe and Mabel Callaway, stands in front of the 1908 Callaway-Amacker home with current owners Amy and Mark Amacker. Beside them is the marker from the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission designating the home as a historic structure.

ing that time.

"Every home from 100 years ago had to have a 'gallery' for people to sit and visit in the evenings," she said. "It also had two bedrooms, a

living room and a kitchen."

Robinson said the original shin-

gles on the cottage-style wood frame home were cut from cypress trees that were plentiful around Oyster Bay 100 years ago.

"They were happy to move into their own home with feather beds, a fireplace and a wood stove," she said.

The couple lived in the home, on what is known now as East Ridge Road, for more than 60 years until Joe's death in 1970.

Mabel continued to live in the home for a few years, and died in 1979. After her death, the home passed to the Callaway's son, Laurence "Bunny" Callaway and his wife Midge, who sold the home to current owners Mark and Amy Amacker in 1981.

According to Lillian Bemis, the daughter of "Bunny" and Midge, it was one of her mother's most enduring wishes to see her grandparents' home designated as a historical landmark.

"She spoke to Amy (Amacker)

about it and Amy ran with it and went through all the red tape to get it done," Bemis said.

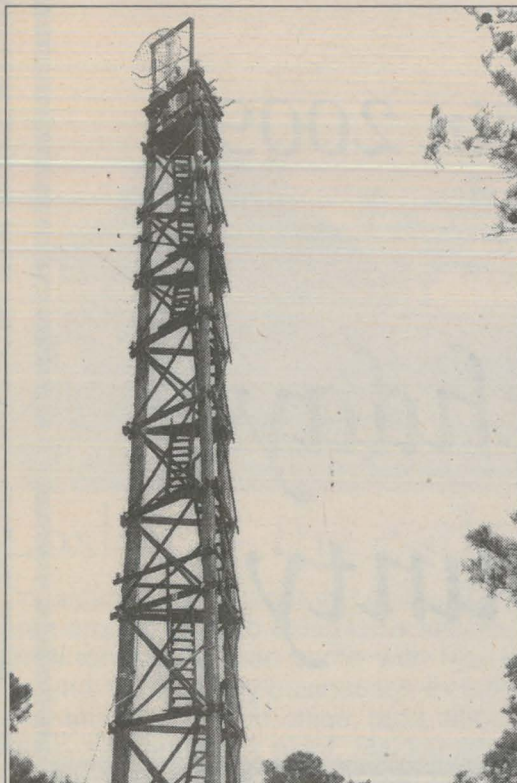
The Historic Development Commission approved the designation on April 14.

According to Commission records, the Callaway-Amacker home is only the third in the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach area to have been granted historic status.

The other two are the Orrell/Burnett home on Baldwin County 6, built in 1900 and the Dunkin Cottage on Bay Circle in Orange Beach, which was built in 1925.

"It's too bad the designation wasn't approved until after her (Midge) death (in November 2008), but I think it is a special honor," Bemis said.

"You just don't see many 100-year-old buildings down here, especially ones that have been lived in continuously for that period of time."



courtesy of Snook Archives

High
above the
treetops

People stand atop Gulf Telephone Company's then newly constructed tower at Orange Beach in the early 1950's which served as a radio tower, beacon and landmark.



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SOUTH BALDWIN BEACHES



courtesy of Snook Archives



courtesy of Snook Archives

Just another day at the beach

South Baldwin's beaches have always been a popular destination for Baldwin residents and vacationers alike. Above right, bathing beauties enjoy the Gulf surf during the summer of 1939. Back then it took all day to get there, boating from Miflin to Orange Beach then onto to the Gulf beaches. People visited the beaches year-round like the folks on the left who took a trip in October.



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SUMMERDALE



courtesy of Snook Archives

Generally speaking

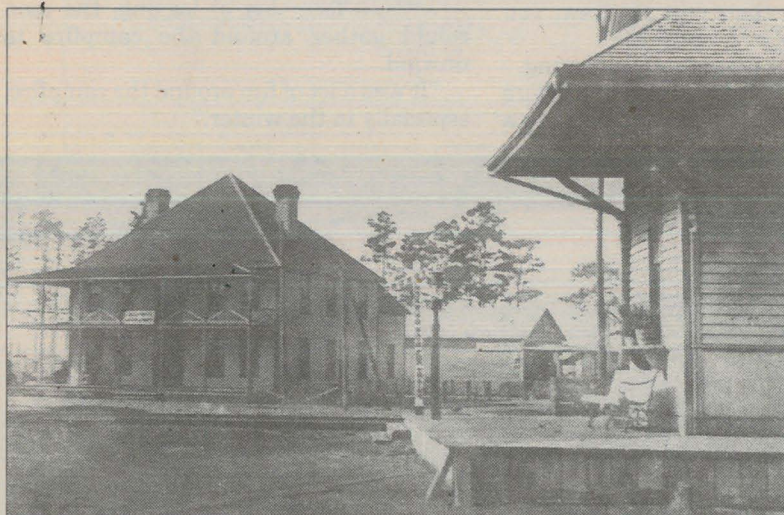
The M.W. Smith and Company General Merchants store served Summerdale residents from the time it was built in 1909 until it burned in 1911.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Meet me at the fair

All of the towns had their annual fairs — big events for area residents — and Summerdale was no different. Seen above, residents enter the gate to the "Summerdale Fair and Market" during October 1911.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Loxley — the early years

Considered the founder of Loxley, John Loxley came to the area around 1900 to establish a lumbercamp and sawmill. A large number of men came with him and stayed to settle. Around 1920, Loxley businesses included an egg store, grocery store, telegraph office, land office, repair garage, post office, cement block plant, blacksmith, bank and hotel (pictured above right along with part of the railroad station).

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NORTH BALDWIN

Logging plays key role in lives of county residents

Theresa Swope

Staff Writer

tswope@gulfcoastnewspapers.com

The logging industry has long been a source of income for Baldwin County.

"Everyone in this part of the county took their living, directly or indirectly, from the logging industry," according to Leslie Smith, who grew up in a logging family.

Thomas Gause, who spent much of his life in the swamp-logging industry, said the first trees to be cut out of the swamp were Cypress.

But Gause said the hardship of swamp logging did not deter men from pursuing it.

"Anywhere there has been timber, (man) has wanted it and would find a way to get it," Gause said.

Smith said the upper part of the Delta would dry up enough twice a year to log with oxen teams and wagons.

"In the high parts, earlier (loggers) got in with oxen teams, got (logs) to the river and rafted them to the sawmill or Mobile," Gause said.

In some instances, various themes of wheeled transportation were used.

"Some used a high wheeled cart, two wheels and a tongue by which the logs were drawn," Smith said. Smith said that method was used for short distances of maybe a few hundred yards.

In later days, tractors were used, though their success was limited.

"The Fordson Tractor did not have tires on it, just a track like on a dozer," he said. "The tractor was so underpowered that the mud was too much for it and we couldn't keep the tractor running."

Though other, better vehicles were available, finding them in Baldwin County was not as easy.

"Dual wheels were available soon after trucks, but not in this area," he said. "As soon as we got dual wheels we were able to use trucks in the swamp. That revolutionized swamp logging."

"After World War II lots of half-ton trucks were on the market. This revolutionized swamp logging too," he said. "They were real cheap, you could pick one up for a song."

"The lower Delta never gets dry enough so you have to use a pullboat," Smith said.

"Pullboating used huge winch lines across the river to anchor the boat, and another line into the woods around a huge pulley about two feet in diameter," he

said. "It would only reach about three quarters of a mile into the timberland."

"It was somewhat expensive and couldn't reach a lot."

Floating was a less expensive way to get timber to the river.

"They had to be very skilled because they did this even in the winter."

"The log would be navigated through what were called trails. Then (the waterway) got wider and became float roads," he said.

Once the logs reached the float road, they were gathered together and chained to each other with iron dogs — a chain with metal spikes on either end.

"They would put a spike in one log and another in a second log, and the chain would hook them together."

"(Loggers) would take them through the trails then gather them at the float road two or four wide," he said. "Sometimes they would carry as much as 20 or 30 logs."

The float roads led to the river, where a log boom was constructed to hold the logs.

For timber too heavy to float, gunboats were used. These boats consisted of two 16 to 20-foot-long steel drums, or pontoons, with 30-foot-long beams connecting them.

"During the dry season we would cut oak and other hard woods that wouldn't float," Smith said. "We would cut about 20 of them and drag them up into a pile. Then we would cut a stick with notches in it to indicate how many logs were there."

"We would cut the logs, then cut the trail and wait for high water to bring the gunboats in."

"In a few weeks you could harvest enough timber in there to support your family for a year," Smith said.

Though a logger could harvest enough timber to support his family, Smith said it was not a lucrative business.

"No logging was ever profitable for anyone," he said. "It's a boom and bust indus-



Theresa Swope/staff photo

Giant tongs like this were used to find and pick up logs gathered during the dry season and left to be picked up during the wet season. Many logs were too far into the Delta to be pulled out by any other means.

try. Either there's great demand or no demand at all."

He said a logging company would start up suddenly, then stop just as suddenly.

"One spell of bad weather or one outbreak of malaria in the crew and it would end in the middle of a job," he said. "The timber demand would stop and end jobs, then a few weeks later, you'd have a big demand. It was boom and bust,

boom and bust.

"Then there was the challenge of holding the crew together if you did have to stop logging," he said. "To keep the crew together was important because if the opportunity was there but no crew, you missed out."

Smith recalls a typical day of logging.

"We would generally leave home before daylight in a model T Ford and drive to a

landing, such as Montgomery Hill Landing on the Tensaw River.

We would get in a small boat and paddle to a bayou or sluice. Then we would walk about a half a mile to a mile to the logging camp."

Smith said a logging crew usually consisted of less than a dozen men.

"Generally camp was close enough to the operation for the men to come in at noon. They ate on tin plates and would sit on logs or makeshift benches.

Smith said the work of a logger was much different than most jobs today.

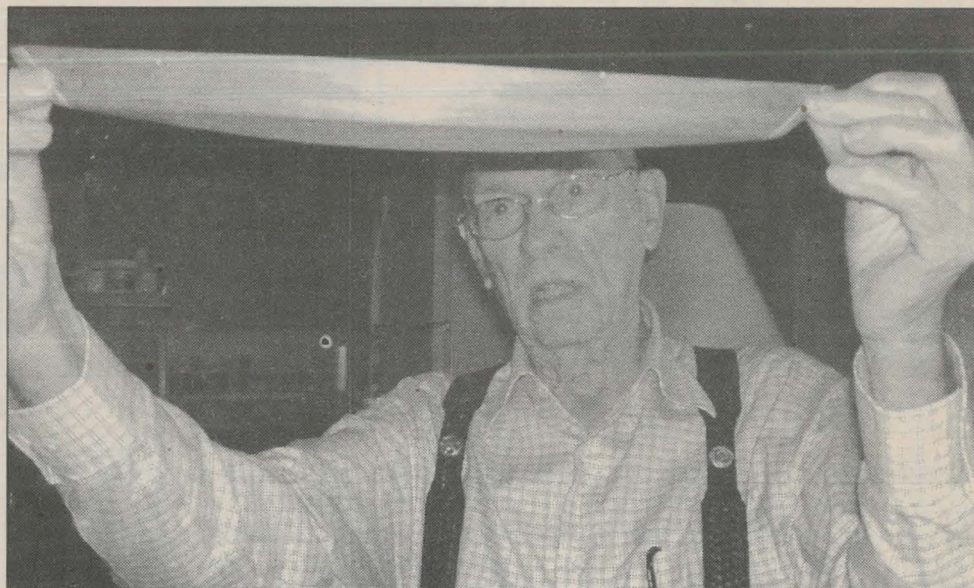
"The physical labor men performed in those days would be unthinkable today. But the tempo of work was much slower and it was spread out over the daylight hours. It wasn't the frantic pace of today where everything has to be crammed in to an eight-hour day. We would say you worked from 'kin to can't' - you kin see til you can't see."

Smith said though they worked much longer hours, they also took many breaks.

"Everyone recognized people and animals need breaks. The physical labor it took to lay that tree down would be unsustainable over a long time."

After a long day of logging, the men would gather around the campfire to unwind.

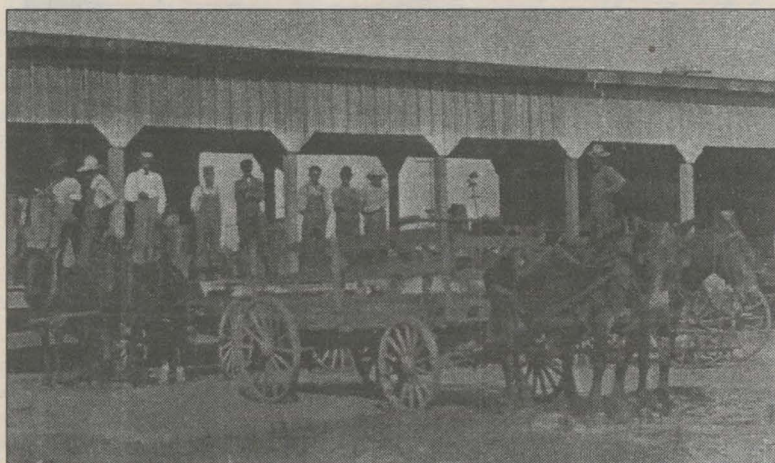
"It was a lot of fun around the campfire, especially in the winter."



Theresa Swope/staff photo

Leslie Smith, who grew up in a logging family, shows off a replica of a double-ender boat, one of the primary tools in delta logging.

SILVERHILL



courtesy of Snook Archives

Shipping Cucumbers

Workers are seen shipping cucumbers at Silverhill Station in the spring of 1907.



courtesy of Snook Archives

Movin' on up

Back in 1979, the old Evangelical Church needed to be moved from Silverhill to Blakeley, and what better way to do it than through the air, courtesy of the Alabama Army National Guard.

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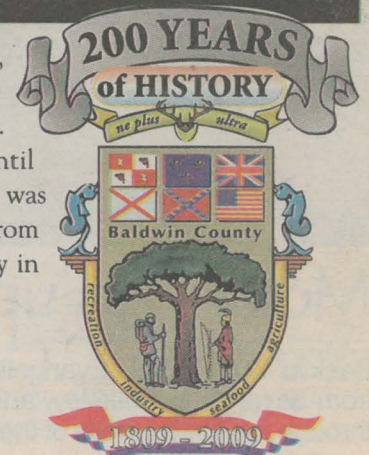
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Baldwin County

Alabama

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Baldwin County, Alabama, is named in honor of Abraham Baldwin, a member of the United States Senate. The county was established on December 21, 1809, ten years before Alabama became a state. Previously, the county had been a part of the Mississippi territory until 1817 when the area passed into the Alabama territory. Statehood was gained by Alabama in 1819. Historical stories abound this county from the top to the tip of the peninsula. Baldwin County is rich, not only in her resources, but of the very people that inhabit the county.



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